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M. & P. H. (19$ 47) Department.

MS. SERIES.

G.O. No. MS. 2091 P.H.

Dated the 26th August 1947.

[Despatch Abstract.]

DISTRICT HEALTH BOARDS AND COUNCILS - Establishment of - Recommendations of the Health Survey and Development Committee - Papers Recorded.

Extract from the Public Health Ministers Conference held at New Delhi from 10-10-46 to 13-10-47.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION.

Opening the discussion the Chairman explained that the first question was whether there should be at the Centre a Board of Health consisting of Health Ministers of Provinces and the Central Member for Health, and a Central Council of Experts, and whether these bodies should be set up by legislation. It did not appear necessary that they should be statutory bodies unless it was intended to confer executive functions upon them. Another point for consideration was whether the Central Board of Health should include representatives of the Central Legislature and the Indian States as in the case of the existing Central Advisory Board of Health and also whether similar bodies should be set up in the provinces.

Major General Hay, D.G.I.M.S., briefly described the recommendations of the Bhore Committee on the set up and functions of the Central and Provincial Boards of Health and Health Councils and recommended their adoption in principle by the Conference.

The Honourable Mrs. R. Lakshmipathi (Madras) agreed in principle to the proposal to set up a Central Board and Council and Provincial Boards and Councils. It was pointed out that in Madras there was already a provincial board of health consisting of the Minister in charge of Public Health, the Minister for Local Administration, the Surgeon General, the Director of Public Health, the Sanitary Engineer and non-official members elected from the Legislature, and as this board already included experts it was not necessary to set up another council of experts. It was necessary that the functions of the Boards should be purely advisory.

The Honourable Dr. Gilder (Bombay) was of the opinion that frequent meetings of Provincial Health Ministers was of great value and that a Central Board should be set up. It was suggested that in the Health Council at the Centre the experts of the Provincial Governments should also be included. As regards the Bombay Province, there was at present a provincial Board of Public Health works and its functions could be extended to cover the whole field of Public Health.

The Honourable Mr. V.L.Pandit (United Provinces) agreed in principle with the proposal to set up a Central Board but pointed out that the autonomy of the Provinces should be left untouched. The Honourable Minister suggested that members of the Legislatures should be included on the Boards.

The Honourable Mian Mohd. Ibrahim Barq (Punjab) agreed to the creation of the Board and Councils as suggested.

The Honourable Mr. B. Jha (Bihar) suggested that the Provincial Boards should contain representatives of the legislatures as well as of local bodies and that details of the constitution of these boards and Councils should be left to Provincial Governments. It was suggested that representatives of the Finance Departments should also be included on these boards.

The Honourable Minister welcomed the idea of holding conferences of Health Ministers periodically and suggested

the inclusion in such meetings of Ministers holding local ~~xxxxx~~ self government portfolios.

The Honourable Dr. Hasan (Central Provinces) agreed with the proposals in principle and suggested that provincial experts should be allowed to attend the Central Board of Health along with their Ministers.

The Honourable Mr. Ram Nath Das (Assam) also agreed with the proposal and suggested that the matter of provincial organisations should be left to the Provincial Governments.

The ~~xxxxxx~~ Honourable Minister from Orissa and the representatives from Sind and the North West Frontier Province also expressed general agreement with the proposals and so did the representatives from the Indian States present.

RESOLUTION.

On a motion from the Chair the following resolution was passed by the Conference:-

"The Conference agrees that Boards of Health and Councils of Experts should be constituted at the Centre and in the Provinces. It considers that representatives of the Central Board of Health, that the constitution of the Provincial Boards should be left to the discretion of the Provincial Governments and that the health experts of the Central ~~xxxxxxxx~~ and Provincial Governments should attend the Central Board of Health. The Conference also considers that the functions of the Central Board and Council should be purely advisory".

Please see the proceedings of the Public Health Ministers Conference at pp.9-11 ~~xxxxx~~ c.f.

2. Central Board of Health. Proposals of the Government of India may be awaited.

3. Provincial Board of Health. It is for consideration whether a Provincial Board or Council should be formed and if so, what should be its constitution. At the preliminary conference held in the Secretariat before the meeting of the Public ~~xxx~~ Health Ministers Conference, it was agreed that a Provincial Board or Council should be formed and that it should be purely an advisory body. In this connection it may be stated that H.M.(P.H.) has separately proposed that an expert

committee xxfxxxxfxxx of purely non-official medical man
A. should be formed. It has been suggested that the Surgeon
General may be asked to submit proposals in that matter.

An account of the existing committees and Boards is given at pages 1 to 4 ante. Too xxxx many committees might create confusion. The Committee referred to at 'A' might deal with medical and Public Health problems referred to it and the committee might of its own accord make recommendations on any matter. It seems necessary to make provision for the attendance of Medical or Public Health experts at the meetings of the non-official committee. Otherwise a purely non-official committee will not have proper guidance and might, in the absence of a knowledge of the realities, make impracticable recommendations. Before consulting Finance, H.M's. orders may be taken on the general lines on which action may be taken and then the Mxxxxxxxxfxxxxx remarks of the Surgeon General, the Director of Public Health, the Chief Engineer, and the D.T.P. might be invited.

Intd.
18/12/46.

All these items have been elaborately dealt with in separate files.

These papers may be recorded for reference

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ABSTRACT.

DISTRICT HEALTH BOARDS AND COUNCILS - Establishment of - Recommendations of Health Survey and Development Committee - Papers Recorded.

(True copy)

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